

**CITY OF CHULA VISTA
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
ENVIRONMENT, OPEN SPACE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**November 25, 2002
Ken Lee Building Conference Room**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chair Doug Reid	Vice Chair Frank Ohrmund
	Allison Rolfe	Pamela Bensoussan
	John Chavez	Laura Hunter
	Stanley Jasek	Susan Fuller
	Theresa Acerro	Teresa Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT:	Michael Beck	Juan Diaz
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STAFF PRESENT:	Ed Batchelder, General Plan Project Manager
	Marilyn Pongeggi, Envir. Review Coordinator
	Paul Hellman, Envir. Projects Manager
	Perla Selner, Recording Secretary

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting of October 28, 2002

MSC (Jasek/Diaz) to approve the minutes of October 28, 2002 with Laura Hunter and Allison Rolfe abstaining.

Teresa Thomas asked that clarification be made on a couple of items in the minutes at a later time. She wants to know what Marilyn meant by (1) how tiering is used in a General Plan EIR, and (2) how the GP EIR structure will be determined further as the EIR is scoped later in the process.

2. QUESTIONS/FOLLOW UP ITEMS FROM OCTOBER 28, 2002 MEETING

Ed asked members if they have any questions on any items from the October 28 meeting.

Ed informed members that the date of the January meeting needs to be changed because it falls on a holiday. Marilyn referred to the list of meetings contained in the Agenda packet. She stated that scheduling has been worked out to avoid conflict between RCC, the Subcommittee and the Steering Committee except for the Subcommittee's scheduled meeting in January that falls on the Martin Luther King Day holiday. Members agreed to hold their meeting on January 27.

Ed polled the members to determine how many members would like copies of the existing General Plan as well as the General Plan EIR. Perla noted members' requests.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY ISSUES REPORT

Ed stated that the Agenda packets distributed to members contained the Preliminary Issues Report and the raw input from the database for comments pertaining to the Environment and Open Space topic. Ed also noted that members could request the raw input on any other topic areas of interest and to let staff know so the information can be provided. Also, copies of the first set of input contained in the Agenda packets were replaced with copies sorted by frequency code.

Referring to the Preliminary Issues Report, Ed stated that it is the summary of all comments collected from the community. He further noted that the objective of tonight's exercise is to identify issues for discussion with the group and to come up with issues that are more reflective of the group.

Paul Hellman provided an overview of the Report that focused on the Environment and Open Space topic. He stated that members are welcome to share issues, including non-environmental issues with the group.

Paul reviewed the Preliminary Issues Report and indicated that due to the large number of comments received, they were summarized as major themes and sub-themes in some cases. He asked members to provide any input that they have.

Laura Hunter asked for a breakdown of comments received in Spanish and the geographic locations where the comments came from. Her concern is that the western side of Chula Vista was not aware of the public outreach process. Ed responded that the comments are coded in such a way that this information can be pulled out from the database but noted that this information will not be an accurate representation of input received from Spanish speaking people. Ed added that Management & Information Systems staff is currently working on coding all the comments by geographic areas and will come up with a map that will reflect these areas.

Theresa Acerro questioned where land use is since no copy of land use-related comments were provided. Ed replied that land use is one of the distinct pieces of the General Plan that has interrelationships with other topics including open space. Ed further noted that an important role of the Subcommittee members is to identify interrelationships between topic areas.

In reply to Gail Moriarty's question regarding the relationship between the Environment and Open Space Subcommittee and various outside regional organizations, Marilyn stated that the Subcommittee serves as a

clearinghouse for all environmental issues and studies and that the input of the Subcommittee is forwarded to the Steering Committee.

Teresa Thomas expressed her concern on the impact that the group's decisions and agreements will have on environment and open space over time. She wants to ensure that there is continued monitoring on any mitigation decisions to protect preserved areas. In addition, John Chavez brought up an issue that came up at the Steering Committee meeting which he attended concerning the way transit alternatives are being currently represented with respect to fixed rail versus rubber-tire vehicles and how such decisions affect air quality.

In response, Marilyn referred to the MSCP as one example. She explained that once the City Council adopts the MSCP, the only way that preserves can be changed is through amendments and that an MSCP implementing agreement will act as a contract between City and the wildlife agencies with respect to how to implement the MSCP.

Laura stated that she's concerned that environmental laws are becoming less protective over time, and suggested that the group be very visionary, aggressive and protective of policies it puts forward. As a response, Ed referred to Phase I of the areawide studies in the Preliminary Issues Report that is looking at and documenting existing conditions.

During the issues discussion exercise, members wrote approximately five key issues on post-its and placed them on the wall. Ed and Paul organized the post-its by topic area and read each comment to the group. Through discussion, some comments were clarified. Additional issues discussed orally were typed into the computer by Marilyn. The attached "Summary of Preliminary Issue Identification" contains the written and oral comments presented by the Subcommittee members and members of the public in attendance.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Doug Reid recommended moving item #4 **Public Comment** up on the Agenda to give the public a chance to make comments on issues not listed in the Agenda.

Gail Moriarty, a member of a volunteer group that patrols trails in valleys and open spaces stated that she would like the Subcommittee members to be aware that there is an interest in keeping the equestrian presence in the city of Chula Vista. She would also like the members to look at trails in valleys and open spaces, to provide staging areas, and to be able to link trails to one another. Ed responded that there is a trails component in the General Plan Update but Gail suggested that a component specifically for equestrian trails

be incorporated. Vice Chair Frank Ohrmund mentioned that the issue came up at the Otay Valley Regional Park Advisory Committee meeting and that he can share with the members what the concerns are at a later date.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. to the next meeting on December 16, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. in the Ken Lee Building Conference Room.

Recorded by,

Perla Selner
Recording Secretary